

United States. That would be a disaster for Idaho and American producers. The ambassador also assured us that this is in no way a precedent, and in fact is a unique and isolated event. However, if this sale is still allowed to go through, it could create a real concern that this deal will set a precedent.

Barley is very important to the economy of my home state. Idaho produces 60 million bushels of barley a year, worth \$155.3 million annually. We are the second largest barley producer in the U.S. and barley is the state's fifth largest crop.

Mr. Chairman, I call for termination of this sale of European Union barley and also for assurances from the European Union that U.S. grain markets will not be disrupted by unfair trade practices. That is why I am submitting a resolution calling on the European Union to halt this shipment and for the administration to investigate this unfair practice.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues in submitting this resolution condemning the subsidized sale of European barley into the California barley market.

Today several of us met with the European Union Ambassador, Mr. Hugo Paemon, to express our extreme concern about this shipment and about the future it bodes for the trade relationship between the United States and the European Union. Quite frankly, Mr. President, I think that we were heard but I am not sure, in the American vernacular, that Mr. Paemon quite "gets it."

Mr. President, I want to suggest that whether this is just a skirmish, or whether it is the first battle in what many believe could become a rapidly escalating conflict over trade in agricultural goods, for barley producers in Oregon and across America, there has been no more serious matter in the past decade.

My language is strong, Mr. President, because it is very important that Senators understand that if this shipment proceeds it sets an extremely dangerous precedent for our agricultural trade practices.

There is a very real concern in Oregon that if we allow this shipment of grain, the shipment of which would simply not be possible without an extraordinary level of European Union subsidy, then we will have opened the door to further shipments that could have devastating effects on our domestic commodity prices.

For my colleagues who have not yet heard about this issue, a shipment of European Union barley, at a restitution subsidy rate of \$51 per metric ton, that was originally targeted into the Saudi Arabian market was not sold. In search of a buyer, this shipment was subsequently sold into the California feed barley market at a price well below the then-current market price.

Mr. President, the United States is the world's largest producer of feed grains and the world's largest exporter

of feed grains. Were this European barley not subsidized at half of its value, we would not be having this discussion because there is no way it could have been priced competitively with domestic feed barley.

I met this weekend with barley producers in Klamath Falls, Oregon. These folks are already seeing very tough barley prices this season, down about \$5 a metric ton from what they have normally received over the decade. They are taking some hits as a consequence of our national policy through the Farm bill of phasing out income maintenance programs. And now the European Union is sending us a heavily subsidized shipment that is causing collapse of the market. Enough is enough.

This European Union shipment, because it has the capacity to flood the California market for the next 9 months, has caused prices to drop \$10 per ton in one week. One individual who operates a grain elevator in the Klamath described telling a local producer that he had lost some \$20,000 in 48 hours as a result of this dumping of this subsidized barley into California.

These farmers ask, correctly, that if ever there was a time for the federal government to come to the defense of American agriculture, now is that time. We face collapse of our American barley market because of this relatively unique occurrence; now is the time to go to the mat in defense of our producers against wholly subsidized foreign dumping.

Mr. President, we should also recognize, and thank, the larger wholesalers of barley in California who passed up this sale, which to them represented I'm sure a very lucrative marketing opportunity. These companies understood the damage that the sale would do to their customers and most reliable suppliers, the U.S. barley producers. But surely if this sale is allowed to go forward, and other fire sales are allowed to follow, those firms will no longer be able to afford that posture.

Mr. President, as a supporter of free trade, and of providing fast track authority, if we are to retain our credibility with American farmers then we must show the ability to act forcefully when faced with these sorts of irritants to free trade. There is no precedent for this sale, and if we allow it to go forward then those of us who believe in the promise of freer trade will have some difficulty explaining to our farmers that greater trade freedom is in their best interest.

Mr. President, it is very important to all Oregon producers that the U.S. Senate act quickly to respond to this unprecedented attack on one segment of our agriculture industry. I urge the swift adoption of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 221—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 1998, AS "NATIONAL ERASE THE HATE AND ELIMINATE RACISM DAY"

Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. MACK, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GLENN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 221

Whereas the term 'hate crime' means an offense in which one or more individuals, commits an offense (such as an assault or battery (simple or aggravated), theft, criminal trespass, damage to property, mob action, disorderly conduct, or telephone harassment) by reason of the race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or national origin of another individual or group of individuals;

Whereas there are almost 8,000 hate crimes reported to the Department of Justice each year, and the number of hate crimes reported increases each year;

Whereas hate crimes have no place in a civilized society that is dedicated to freedom and independence, as is the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States must lead and set the example for the world in protecting the rights of all people;

Whereas the people of the United States should take personal responsibility for and action against hatred and hate crimes;

Whereas the Members of Congress, as representatives of the people of the United States, must take personal responsibility for and action against hatred and hate crimes;

Whereas the laws against hate crimes, which have been passed by Congress and signed by the President, must be supported and implemented by the people of the United States and by Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials and other public servants: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 1998, as 'National Erase the Hate and Eliminate Racism Day'; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and throughout the world to recognize the importance of using each day as an opportunity to take a stand against hate crimes and violence in their nations, states, neighborhoods and communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 222—COMMEMORATING STUART FRANKLIN BALDERSON

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. FORD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 222

Whereas Stuart F. Balderson became an employee of the United States Senate on May 23, 1960, and since that date has ably and faithfully upheld the high standards and traditions of the staff of the United States Senate for a period that included 19 Congresses;

Whereas Stuart F. Balderson has served as Financial Clerk of the United States Senate from August 1, 1980 to April 30, 1998;

Whereas Stuart F. Balderson has faithfully discharged the difficult duties and responsibilities of his position as Financial Clerk of the United States Senate with great pride, energy, efficiency, dedication, integrity, and professionalism;

Whereas he has earned the respect, affection, and esteem of the United States Senate; and

Whereas Stuart F. Balderson will retire from the United States Senate on April 30, 1998, with 40 years of Government service—38 years with the United States Senate and 2 years with the United States Navy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the United States Senate commends Stuart F. Balderson for his exemplary service to the United States Senate and the Nation, and wishes to express its deep appreciation and gratitude for his long, faithful, and outstanding service.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Stuart F. Balderson.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 30, 1998 at 9 a.m. in SR-328A. The purpose of this meeting will be to examine agricultural transportation issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 30, 1998, to conduct a mark-up of H.R. 1151, the "Credit Union Membership Access Act".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, April 30, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. on the nomination of James Loy to be admiral and James Card to be vice admiral of the United States Coast Guard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, April 30, 1998, at 10 a.m. or immediately following the nomination hearing, on pending committee business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, April 30, 1998 beginning at 9 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 30, 1998, at 10 a.m., in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 30, 1998, at 10:30 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on "Raising Tobacco Prices: New Opportunities for the Blackmarket?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Aviation Subcommittee on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, April 30, 1998, at 2 p.m. on AIP reauthorization (COMMITTEE PROPOSAL).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 30, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1253, the Public Land Management Act of 1997.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 30, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which

is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on title IV of S. 1693, the Vision 2020 National Park Restoration Act; and S. 624, the National Park Service Concession Policy Reform Act of 1997.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety, be authorized to meet for a hearing on Agency for Health Care Policy Research during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 30, 1998, at 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN RECOGNITION OF JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to call my colleagues attention to Jewish Heritage Week, which is being recognized this year from April 26 through May 2.

Each spring since 1976, during the season in which Jewish people commemorate Passover, Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel independence Day), a week is set aside to celebrate the significant contributions Jewish people have made to American history and culture. This year is of special significance to Jews in the United States and throughout the world as the State of Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary on April 30.

On the day following the establishment of the State of Israel, Prime Minister Ben-Gurion reminded the people of Israel what had been accomplished. He said, "whatever we have achieved is the result of the efforts of earlier generations no less than those of our own. It is also the result of an unwavering fidelity to our precious heritage, the heritage of a small nation that has suffered much, but at the same time has won for itself a special place in the history of mankind because of its spirit, faith, and vision." Today, American Jews maintain the same rich heritage of which Prime Minister Ben-Gurion spoke. And just as our brothers and sisters in Israel, we owe much to our forebears who paved the way in the United States.

Mr. President, the contributions of Jewish Americans to the life of our nation are undeniable. Virtually every area of American culture has benefited from the talents of Jewish people, including science, medicine, business, government, literature and the arts. I know my colleagues join me and the millions of others who mark this special week to pay tribute to the countless people of Jewish faith who have contributed so much to the definition of our nation and the world.●